

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

(i) ~~querying a user to identify, defining, in-via configuration data software of a computer system, a business process in terms of what activities that make up the a business process comprises;~~
~~and~~

(ii) ~~for each activity identified in step (i), querying the user to provide process control elements that define~~ defining ~~a behavior of each the respective activity of the business process with respect to a business object to be acted on by the business activity, for a plurality of said process control elements including:~~

a status element, which represents a progress level within the business process that the business object has reached by arriving at the instant activity;

a user interface element, which defines the scope within which ~~allows users are allowed~~ to operate on the business object ~~within a defined scope of for~~ the instant activity;

a plausibility check element, which verifies that the business object sufficiently meets a set of criteria to proceed past the instant activity;

a release element, which signals that the business object is ready to proceed past the instant activity in the business process; and

an authorization element, which specifies a set of users that is allowed to operate on the business object for the instant activity; ~~and~~

(iii) storing the defined business process and activity behaviors in configuration data of the computer system, ~~allowing the computer system to thereafter; and~~

(iv) dynamically generating ~~the business process from the activities and the process control elements provided by the user,~~ to operate on business objects managed by the computer system.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising performing ~~an one or more activities~~ activity of the business process in accordance with a corresponding defined behavior.

3. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor;

a memory coupled to the processor and storing instructions ~~executable~~ adapted to be executed by the processor ~~to configure business application software~~, the instructions implementing a method including:

querying a user to identify, via configuration software, presenting an option to define a business process in terms of what activities that make up a the business process comprises;
based on user input, setting values in configuration data corresponding to a defined process;

for each identified activity, querying the user to provide process control elements that presenting an option to define a behavior of each the respective activity of the business process with respect to a business object to be acted on by the activity, for each of a plurality of said process control elements including:

a status element, which represents a progress level within the business process that the business object has reached by arriving at the instant activity;

a user interface element, which defines the scope within which allows users are allowed to operate on the business object within a defined scope of for the instant activity;

a plausibility check element, which verifies that the business object sufficiently meets a set of criteria to proceed past the instant activity;

a release element, which signals that the business object is ready to proceed past the instant activity in the business process; and

an authorization element, which specifies a set of users that is allowed to operate on the business object for the instant activity; ~~and~~

storing based on user input, setting values in the configuration data corresponding to the defined business process and activity behaviors in configuration data of the computer system, allowing the computer system to thereafter; and

dynamically generating the business process from the activities and the process control elements provided by the user, to operate on business objects managed by the computer system.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 3, the method further comprising performing one or more activities of the business process or an activity thereof in accordance with the configuration data.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 3, the method further comprising associating respective configuration values with retrieval parameters.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 5, the method further comprising reading configuration values based on the retrieval parameters, and controlling a behavior of one or more activities of the business process or an activity thereof based on the configuration values.

7. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage medium storing computer-executable instructions adapted to be executed by a processor to perform a method comprising including:
querying a user to identify, via configuration software, presenting an option to define a business process in terms of what activities that make up a the business process comprises;
based on user input, setting values in configuration data corresponding to a defined process;
for each identified activity, querying the user to provide process control elements that presenting an option to define a behavior of each the respective activity of the business process with respect to a business object to be acted on by the activity, for each of a plurality of said process control elements including:

a status element, which represents a progress level within the business process that the business object has reached by arriving at the instant activity;

a user interface element, which defines the scope within which allows users are allowed to operate on the business object within a defined scope of for the instant activity;

a plausibility check element, which verifies that the business object sufficiently meets a set of criteria to proceed past the instant activity;

a release element, which signals that the business object is ready to proceed past the instant activity in the business process; and

an authorization element, which specifies a set of users that is allowed to operate on the business object for the instant activity; ~~and~~

~~storing based on user input, setting values in the configuration data corresponding to the defined business process and activity behaviors in configuration data of the computer system; allowing the computer system to thereafter; and~~

~~dynamically generating the business process from the activities and the process control elements provided by the user, to operate on business objects managed by the computer system.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 7, the method further comprising associating respective configuration values with retrieval parameters.

9. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

reading configuration data to determine a behavior of a user-identified activity of a business activity-process with respect to a business object to be acted on by the activity, wherein user-provided process control elements define the behavior stored is defined in the configuration data ~~in accordance with a plurality of, said~~ process control elements including:

a status element, which represents a progress level within the business process that the business object has reached by arriving at the instant activity;

a user interface element, which defines the scope within which ~~allows users are~~ allowed to operate on the business object within a defined scope of for the instant activity;

a plausibility check element, which verifies that the business object sufficiently meets a set of criteria to proceed past the instant activity;

a release element, which signals that the business object is ready to proceed past the instant activity in the business process; and

an authorization element, which specifies a set of users that is allowed to operate on the business object for the instant activity; and

performing the business-activity in accordance with the configuration data.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein values in the configuration data ~~corresponding to the business activity wherein the behavior of the activity is defined~~ are read based on a retrieval parameter ~~corresponding to~~ associated with a process control area of the business activity.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the status element relates to a stage of ~~the business process that includes the business activity.~~

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the user interface element relates to at least one of an appearance and operability of a user interface for handling the business object.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the plausibility check element relates to plausibility checks on data relating to the business object.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the release element relates to an approval for the business object to be acted on by a subsequent activity.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the authorization element relates to ~~relates~~ an authorization to act on the business object.